

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

16 MAY 2014

1. The 10 April 2014, meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1130 hours at the Spirit of Fort Hood Warrior and Family Chapel, Fort Hood, Texas.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present:

GEN (Ret) Griffin, Chairman
CSM (Ret) King, Jr., Co-Chairman
LTC (Ret) MacMillan, Secretary
CSM (Ret) Bobb, Member
CSM (Ret) Waller, Member
CMCPO (Ret) Hall, Member
SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member
SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member
SFC (Ret) Moore, Member
Ms. Roupe, Member

COL (Ret) Oliver, Jr., Assoc. Member
COL (Ret) Portmann, Hon Member
SCPO (Ret) Lubasky, Hon Member
LTC (Ret) Woodward, Hon Member

b. Members Absent:

COL (Ret) Phelps, Member
LTC (Ret) Christ, Member
CSM (Ret) Small, Member
CSM (Ret) Minosky, Member
CW3 (Ret) Hanger, Assoc. Member

Ms. Greathouse, Assoc. Member
COL (Ret) Somera, Hon Member
SCPO (Ret) Lubasky, Hon Member
1SG (Ret) Fisher, Hon Member

3. The Co-Chairman, GEN (Ret) Griffin called the meeting to order at 1130 hours and welcomed the council. He also thanked Team 3 for providing lunch. CSM (Ret) King announced that the farewell for Mrs. Druce was very good and he read a thank you note from her to the council. GEN (RET) Griffin also stated that COL (Ret) Phelps had surgery and is doing well.

4. Topics of discussion for this meeting:

- Ms. Roupe reported that she is disappointed with the Survivors Outreach Services (SOS). She stated that talking with many surviving spouses they are dissatisfied with the program and are driving to other military installations for services and events for Surviving Families. Ms. Roupe did some research on other SOS Centers and found most have three or more events per week whereas Fort Hood SOS only listed one event for families for the Month of April on the calendar. A discussion pursued regarding the activities held at Fort Hood for Surviving Spouses. Ms. Roupe mentioned that she and many surviving spouses of the Fort Hood Community participated in a fashion for American Widows Project that was held at the Killeen Civic Center on 21 Mar 2013 @ 1900 hrs. The organization was raising funds for the SOS Center, in which over \$4,000 dollars were raised. The Surviving Spouses were very disappointed that no staff from the SOS Center or leadership from Fort Hood was there to show support for the surviving spouses. Ms. Roupe did state that she and Ms. Hildner met with

James Etzie, the Director of SOS and explained their concerns regarding the SOS. GEN (Ret) Griffin asked Ms. Roupe if she would be willing to go to a meeting with him to see the MWR Director Mr. Nick Johnson. He wants to ensure the Corps and Garrison Commanders are aware of this.

- GEN (Ret) Griffin asked Ms. Bedgood if they had started planning for RAD. She said yes. She has already sent the request in for the mobile VET with Charles Eaton in Harker Heights.

5. Individual Council Member Updates:

- Health Care Advisory Council Update. C CSM (Ret) Waller passed out a sheet summarizing the Health Care Information (attached). He also reported that there is an issue with logging into the post website from off post. CSM (Ret) King and CSM (Ret) Waller will look into it. It was discovered that it was the customer's computer settings that were causing the problem not the system on post.
- Benefits Update. CSM (Ret) King stated he has the CSA Council next month and more information will be out after it as far as benefits are concerned. GEN (Ret) Griffin said some things will not be supported but as far as our council is concerned when we have an issue with funding, we need to raise it to the right level for support.
- Installation Update. CSM (Ret) Bobb reported that the post Express Lanes to enter post have been taken away due to recent events. They will reopen at some point. Any of the gates on post may have to close for higher security. CSM (Ret) Bobb also presented each member with a bag of items from ACS primarily flyers for upcoming events.
GEN (Ret) Griffin asked about the soldiers at the PX wearing black vests. CSM (Ret) Bobb said that they are part of the Combat Readiness Battalion. Their main purpose is to provide support in high risk areas such as main headquarters building, shopping areas, welcome center and schools.
- AAFES/PX Council Update: LTC (Ret) MacMillan reported that the Warrior Way Specialty Store will be closed on Wednesdays. They will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday until 1930 hours. On Saturday and Sunday they will close at 1830 hours. She also stated that there is not any information about the proposal for AAFES and DECA combining.
- Commissary/DECA Council Update: SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley reported that she has been working with the commissary to stop throwing out the roasted chickens. They are now marking the price down an hour before closing and if there are any left they donate them to a food bank in Killeen. The food bank is called Once in a Lifetime. She said that about 147 military families have benefited from the area food banks. SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley said several commissaries are doing big promotions to gain and keep customers. Some examples included special drawings for trips, contests for big prizes, and pro athletes to visit. GEN (Ret) Griffin asked if she knew the percentage of soldiers on food stamps and the number of retirees on food stamps in the Fort Hood area.

6. Final comments:

- Ms. Bedgood asked that we have nominations for the guest speaker and retired honoree for RAD at the next meeting. GEN (Ret) Griffin suggested we get someone local to speak..
- GEN (Ret) Griffin reminded the council that we cannot do any solicitation. He asked Ms. Bedgood to have a copy of the policy letter regarding solicitation at the next meeting for all to read and asked that we have legal support present as we plan for RAD.
- CMCPO (Ret) Hall reported at the last Navy Retiree Council meeting that the idea of having a combined council for all the services was recommended. He also reported that today is 114 years of Navy Submarine Service.
- COL (Ret) Oliver reported that he and one other service member, Bill Sidel, were in the last class of Army Air Corps in 1947. Bill Sidel passed away.
- CSM (Ret) King asked that all read the latest version of the RSO magazine. He said we need to get the NCO Corps involved in the Soldier for Life Program. CSM (Ret) Bobb said we need to push for a sponsorship type program like we do for the schools. She stated that CSM Schroeder would be responsive.
- SGM (Ret) Lopez reported that the Memorial Day Ceremony will be at the cemetery at 1000 hours on May 26th.
- GEN (Ret) Griffin stated that he is looking for a replacement to take over for him on the council. It was also brought up that COL (Ret) Fey had resigned from the council so we need to find a replacement for her too. (LT6 Milky is seeking a replacement) 17
- The next meeting will be held on 10 July 2014.

7. GEN (Ret) Griffin thanked everyone for attending then the meeting. It was adjourned at 1300 hours.



GEN (Ret) BENJAMIN S. GRIFFIN
Co-Chairman

Approved/~~Disapproved~~



James J. Love
Colonel, GS
Deputy Chief of Staff